

The Witness

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www.newlifeinchrist.org

2006 Advent Journey to Christmas

The apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 1:8 wrote: *"We do not want you to be uninformed"*. I sense the importance of Paul's words as we prepare to embark upon our four week Advent journey that will lead us to our celebration of our Lord's birth. *"I do not want you to be uninformed"* ... you do not have as much time as you think you have. While there will still be four candles on the advent wreath, their presence does not mean that you will have 28 days before Christmas. Let me share a reality with you: the first Sunday in Advent is December 3rd, the second Sunday in Advent is December 10th, the third Sunday in Advent is December 17th, the fourth Sunday in Advent is December 24th. That means that there are only 21 days between the first Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve. Wow! We better get ready. In an effort to get ready for the birth of our Lord, New Life in Christ will be taking the following journey through advent:

December 3rd Advent I worship (3rd setting LBW)

December 6th 6:30 Advent Soup Supper

7:15 Advent Wednesday Worship - Holden Evening Prayer

December 10th Advent II worship (3rd setting LBW)

December 13th 6:30 Advent Pot Luck

7:15 Children Christmas Program: *"Twas the night before..."*

December 17th Advent III worship (3rd setting LBW)

December 20th 6:30 Advent Soup Supper - Property

7:15 Advent Wednesday Worship - Holden Evening Prayer

December 24th 9:00 No Sunday School

10:00 Christmas Eve morning Worship

7:00 Christmas Eve Worship - Biblical reading, carols, and candlelight

11:30 Christmas Eve Communion Service

News from Stewardship and Finance Committee

Enclosed in this newsletter please find:

1. The Pledge sheet information and article pertaining to the every member response that will take place on December 17th page 3
2. The proposed Budget for 2007 that will be presented at the Congregational meeting on December 10th. page 4 - 5
3. The 2007 envelopes will be made available to be picked up on December 3rd.

Celebrating with our Members

DECEMBER Birthdays

12/1 Doug Dykman
12/5 Charles Skeels
12/6 Alexander Kelley
12/10 Laura Blackburn
12/12 Cindy Carey
12/17 Joe Elliott
12/19 Erik Megahan
12/20 Amber Sims
12/20 Arthurine Wade
12/27 Ada Curran
12/29 Parma Kersten

DECEMBER Baptisms

12/1 Patrice Pruitt-Story
12/9 Kathy Hanne
12/10 James Gallatin
12/13 Melody Larson
12/15 JoAnn Jensen
12/18 Sally Adamson
12/21 Anita Hicock
12/23 Alyssa Hill
12/25 Judy Anderson
12/25 Robert Johnson
12/26 Erin Fitzgerald
12/30 Judy Strickland

DECEMBER Anniversaries

12/18 Jerry & Parma Kersten

News from the Education and Youth Committee

Please join the Education /Youth Committee for "Twas the Night before" Christmas Pageant. We will be having a pot luck instead of soup on December 13 at 6:30 pm. We will be calling each church committee with a food assignment. Please plan on attending.

Calendars

The Youth are still selling 2007 God's Creation Calendars for \$6.00 each. Get one while they last. The calendars are running out. They make great Christmas presents.

Worship and Music Committee

The Committee will resume the practice of assigning worship assistants (Lectors, Ushers and Communion Assistants) from the Time and Talent Sheets. The assigned list will be used starting in December.

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

PLEDGE CARD

Turn in to Church

_____ I will be an active Member of
NLIC

_____ I will attend Worship regularly

_____ I will be a volunteer worker

I pledge my financial support as follows:

\$ _____ \$ _____
Weekly Monthly

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

PLEDGE CARD

Personal File

_____ I will be an active Member of
NLIC

_____ I will attend Worship
regularly

_____ I will be a volunteer worker

I pledge my financial support as follows:

\$ _____ \$ _____
Weekly Monthly

Every Member Response Sunday

2007 Financial Pledges

December 17, 2006

On Sunday, December 17th, the members of New Life in Christ will come together to make their financial pledges for the ministry in Christ's name that takes place through our congregation.

As we all know, the old nemesis called inflation seems to be creeping back into our lives. Inflation along with other needed increases dictate that our budget will increase about 2% for 2007 (mainly due to increased electrical costs). Details of the budget will be presented to the congregation at our Annual Congregational Meeting in December. Our membership for 2007 is going to be pretty much the same as our 2006 membership.

The Finance/Stewardship Committee is asking that every member give prayerful consideration about what their 2007 pledge will be.

We continue to "Live by Faith" as we gather our Every Member Financial Responses. This means that Your Pledge Card will not have a place for your name. Your pledge is between you and God. It will be placed in a blank envelope and placed on the NLIC altar on the 17th of December as part of our worship.

Your envelope will never be opened. However, the envelopes with the Pledge Cards will be used with the palm branches from last year's Palm Sunday celebration to make the ashes for our Ash Wednesday Lenten Service. This process insures that your pledge is between you and God. In addition it means that we at NLIC live and do ministry by faith.

A copy of the Pledge Card is located to the left of this article. Your formal Pledge Card and envelope will be found on the table in the fellowship hall for you to pick up beginning Sunday, December 3rd.

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST -	2007		BUDGET		
	2004	2005	2006 Budget	2006 Est	2007 Budget
OPERATING INCOME	162,540	161,545	165,648	164,150	167,500
BENEVOLENCE					
Synod	7,149	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Undedicated Benevolence		1,851			
Total Benevolence	7,149	6,851	5,000	5,000	5,000
WORSHIP & MUSIC					
Organist	6,752	5,435	6,800	6,800	6,800
Choir Director	1,716	1,584	1,584	1,584	1,584
Altar Guild Supplies	41	23	143	50	143
Bulletins -- Licenses	432	420	250	150	250
Palms	22	22	22	22	22
Devotional Booklet		0	0		0
Xmas Tree Ornaments		0	0		0
Choir Music	390	262	300	300	300
Total Worship & Music	9,354	7,746	9,099	8,906	9,099
EDUCATION					
Bibles & Baptism	54	26	50	122	50
Sunday School Curriculum	121	50	200	42	300
Confirmation & 1st Comm	363	226	300	300	250
Adult Education	0	310	0	134	0
Vacation Bible School	346	378	400	268	400
Special Events	0	194	75	0	50
Church School Supplies	57	0	75	33	50
Total Education	940	1,184	1,100	899	1,100
YOUTH					
Youth Events	0	0	0	0	1,200
National Youth Gathering	0	0	3,460	2,327	
Jr. High Gathering	0	0	460	460	
Sr. High Gathering	746	705	750	0	
Youth raised funds			(2,000)	(1,000)	(450)
Total Youth	746	705	2,670	1,787	750
EVANGELISM					
Greeters	0	0	0	0	
Yellow Pages/Advertising	(3)	0	500	0	
Birthday/Baptismal Cards	0	0	0	0	
Newspaper Ads	147	25	0	0	
Miscellaneous	0	0	150	0	150
Total Evangelism	144	25	650	0	150
STEWARDSHIP					
Offering Envelopes	424	298	298	273	282
Supplies	0	0	0	0	
Total Stewardship	424	298	298	273	282
SERVICE					
Misc	0	0	15	20	20
Cards	0	0	20	0	0
Shipping & Handling	0	0	15	0	0
Emergency Meals	0	0	50	30	30
Total Service	0	0	100	50	50
PARISH LIFE					
Kitchen Supplies/Coffee	0	20	120	140	120
Misc	0	0	250	223	150
Showers-Weddings, etc	172	117	200	(75)	175
Receptions & Pot Luck	123	103	150	100	150
Picnic	0	0	0	75	75
Parents Night w/Youth	0	0	0	0	0
Total Parish Life	295	240	720	463	670
PROPERTY					
Building Maintenance	590	1,179	800	3,750	1,200
Utilities	12,360	12,340	13,873	12,615	14,548
Insurance	4,244	3,294	3,546	3,392	3,170

Musical Inst. Repair	128	0	150	0	0
Cleaning Supplies	83	71	100	0	0
Janitor Service	173	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380
Trash Collection	665	653	660	645	672
Terminex	175	541	768	448	256
Lawnmower Maintenance	0	0	100	19	50
Van Maintenance	0	0	0	0	
Security System	329	330	543	409	179
Mowing	0	0	0	0	2,000
AC Routine (Bi-Annual)	0		346		
Property (Transfer - Credit)	(3,546)	0	(3,303)	(1,152)	0
Total Property	15,199	19,788	18,963	21,506	23,455
ADMINISTRATION					
Office Supplies	1,170	1,351	1,400	1,100	1,100
Postage	807	562	540	453	450
Office Equipment	0	0	0	0	0
Computer Software Maint	325	325	325	350	350
Synod Assembly Exp	894	1,023	1,000	967	1,000
Automobile Allowance	4,500	6,964	8,340	8,340	8,340
Copier Expense	6,468	3,445	4,170	4,290	4,290
Bank Charges	134	32	30	70	70
Theology Conference	350	350	350	350	350
Shepherd Supplies	0	0	0	0	0
Staff Seminars & Wkshps	0	0	0	0	0
Admin (Transfer - Credit)		0	(570)	(221)	0
Total Administration	14,648	14,052	15,585	15,699	15,950
STAFF COSTS					
Pastor's Salary	18,727	18,727	19,320	19,320	20,253
Pastor's Housing Allowanc	17,839	17,839	18,444	18,444	18,444
Office Secretary	5,375	5,063	5,616	2,387	2,625
Temporary Emp Salaries	0	833	0	1,010	0
Total Staff Costs	41,941	42,462	43,380	41,161	41,322
COMPENSATION TAXES					
Social Security Allowance	2,931	2,797	2,956	2,955	3,038
Secretary Payroll Taxes	385	384	388	215	588
Total Comp. Taxes	3,316	3,181	3,344	3,170	3,626
OTHER STAFF COSTS					
Retirement/Insur Benefits	16,491	16,608	17,963	17,978	18,849
Continuing Education	450	700	700	700	700
Pastor Benefits	12,915	13,690	14,100	14,100	15,000
Total Other Staff Costs	29,856	30,998	32,763	32,778	34,549
BUILDING FUND					
Mortgage	31,452	31,452	31,452	31,452	31,452
Total Building Fund	31,452	31,452	31,452	31,452	31,452
NLIC ACADEMY					
Income - Donations	0	(10,530)	0	(5,522)	
Income - Tuition & Fees	0	(6,310)	(52,375)	(16,460)	
Salaries - Net & Taxes	0	10,875	42,587	19,848	
Fica - NLIC Share	0	657	3,258	1,684	
Food		164	813	568	
Training		65	100	90	
Student Supplies	0	2,379	100	17	
Curriculum	0	4,309	0	(949)	
Equipment	0	319	0	95	
Licensing/Testing	0	1,591	1,100	2	
Advertising	0	457	100	50	
Miscellaneous		0	360	52	
Office Expense (transfer)	0	0	570	221	
Property Expense (Transfer)	0	0	3,304	1,152	
Academy Total	0	3,976	(83)	847	
TOTAL OPERATING EXP.	155,462	162,958	165,041	163,991	167,455
OPER INC. MINUS EXP.	7,078	(1,413)	607	159	45

NEWS Briefing

December 2006

Congregational Newsletter Insert -

A DiscipleLife Synod:

Northern Texas - Northern Louisiana Synod, ELCA Sowing and Growing Disciples of Jesus



Thank you, Lutheran Youth Organization

Some months ago the **Lutheran Youth Organization** (LYO) for the NT-NL Synod proposed to the planners of the 2006 ELCA Youth Gathering (July, 2006, in San Antonio) that a part of the offering from the Gathering be given to the construction of the Jubilee Centre in Freetown, Sierra Leone. They boldly asked for \$25,000. And it was granted! The Board of the national LYO voted to support the project and the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone. The money, along with the funds that the synod has raised in recent years, is building a striking new worship center on "government hill" in the center of Freetown. The building will house worship, educational, organizational, and social outreach services for the ELCSL. The 2006 Gathering theme, *Cruzando* (meaning "crossing"), now means that our ministry has crossed an ocean in yet another new way because of the foresight and commitment of our synodical and national LYO!

Tri-Synodical Men's Gathering in Temple

Dr. Rollie Martinson, whose expertise in the areas of contemporary culture and Youth & Family Ministry is undisputed, is the speaker at the **2007 Men's Round Up** in Temple for the three synods of Texas and Louisiana. Dr. Martinson will address the question, "Where is God in a Man's World?" The dates for the Gathering are Feb. 16-17. Learn more at <http://RoundUp4Christ.com>.

NAILS AND DIRT and HANDS THAT HURT

Have a hammer or a paintbrush? Perhaps a shovel or a trimmer? Briarwood needs teams of people to come out and give the place a fresh look. Help is needed with landscaping, painting, taking up carpet, laying in tile, carpentry and the like. Teams of many or few ... teams on weekends or weekdays ... teams that can give 6 hours of help, even if their hands start to hurt. Info contact Jean Oswald (Jean@BriarwoodRetreat.org; 972.754.6134).

Briarwood has a whole series of events coming up that your congregation can tap into. "Campfirmation for Confirmation" are Friday-Saturday events on various topics, an Advent retreat, monthly youth outings, and Mother/Daughter Retreat. Pastor Mike Purcell, Executive Director, is available as retreat leader for your events, or guest preacher for your worship service (940.241.2099).

Broadcasts from the ELCA:

Beginning Dec. 3 on ABC television, Pastor Peter Marty (from *Grace Matters*) journeys across the Holy Land in a program called **Introducing Jesus of Nazareth**. On the Hallmark Channel there are two broadcasts: Davey & Goliath's **Snowboard Christmas** (Dec. 17) and a Christmas Eve worship service, **Joy to the World** (Dec. 24). Consult your local listings.

FYI...

December Emphasis: Lutheran Social Services

- ❖ The **Sr. High Gathering** is almost here: January 12-14. Info contact www.NTNLYouth.org.
- ❖ Three more workshops on the new hymnal, **Evangelical Lutheran Worship**, are scheduled: Jan. 13 at First, Waco; Feb. 17 at St. Luke's, Richardson; Feb. 24 at Grace, Abilene. Info contact NoralynGC@aol.com.
- ❖ **Redeemer, Greenville** (Pastor Marc Hander) has been awarded an ELCA Evangelism Grant to help them "nurture leaders to be faithful in the call to mission and evangelism." The grant will underwrite the purchase of the needed equipment and materials to engage the congregation in a six-week study and discussion around prayer and the mission of the church. Congratulations!
- ❖ Have you heard of the **Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project**? For 10 years now over 5,000 congregations have supported this Fair Trade initiative to bring coffee, tea and cocoa products to the U.S. in a trading system that gives farmers in Third World countries a just price for their products and labor. Info contact LWR.org/coffee or the online store at <http://store.yahoo.com/equalexchange>.
- ❖ The ELCA Youth challenge congregations to join the **Souper Bowl of Caring** (Super Bowl weekend, 2007) in which funds are raised to benefit local and global hunger efforts. Learn more about how you can join the effort at www.SouperBowl.org.

Confirmation Update

The 2006-2007 Confirmation class began their year of study with a study of the Lord's Prayer. Then beginning on October 11th the class has spent some time studying about the six disciplines that a disciple may use in order to grow in their faith. The following are excerpts from some of their papers they wrote in order to share what they had learned.

Giving as a discipline of Discipleship:

... I learned that when you give, you can keep on giving. To me, it is so much better to give than to receive.
... this year I plan to make my own pledge to God's work through NLIC.
... I am happy that I am a part of a discipleship church where I can give, rather than pay dues.

Worship as a discipline of Discipleship:

... to worship in your life means that you keep your faith strong.
... all styles of worship are fine as long as we believe that God is with us as we worship.
... worship is the linchpin of a discipleship church.

Prayer as a discipline of Discipleship:

... because of what I learned about prayer, I am going to pray more than I did before.
... In any way, shape or form, talking to God is Prayer.
... We can pray for many things, but after we pray we should also listen to God.

Service as a discipline of Discipleship:

... Service is the act of helping others and helping them learn about God.
... Service to God takes place when you help others.

Spiritual Friendships as a discipline of Discipleship:

... When you are in a friendship you should be able to trust them.
... We learned about being a good friend and how to tell if our friends are good or are destructive.
... We are better off without friends who manipulate us.

Parish Life

The indoor church picnic and pie bake off was well attended and lots of fun. In case you were unable to make it, the winners of the bake off were as follows:

2 Crust Pies

1st- Carol Dietz - Blueberry
2nd-Mandy Askelson - Little apple
3rd- Jean Lehre - Big apple

1 Crust Pies

1st- Barbara Palermo - Butter scotch
2nd- Pat Johnston - Pecan
3rd- Lucille Robbins - Chess

Once again we would like to thank Olen Story and Ray Beran for "manning" the grill for the picnic.

A Reminder

There will be no Sunday morning pot luck in December. We will be doing the Progressive dinner instead. Watch for the sign up sheets in the fellowship hall. Also remember your "white elephant" gift for the game is to be brought in a large brown grocery sack. Pot Lucks will resume January 7, 2007.

Being Married Is ... Sharing the Christmas Joy



(Stolen Kiss Under the Mistletoe – Frederick Barnard)

Find Some Mistletoe!

Christmas is a grand time of year! There are special presents to buy and warm events to attend with family and friends. And, there are often deadlines that must be met and not enough time. We are well aware that Christmas can become so busy that the joy is lost! Some even forget what the celebration is all about.

That's where love for each other comes in. Out of love for our spouses we can check on how they are feeling and listen to their stories. We can add a little unexpected romance to ward off the holidays blues with a hug, a hand squeeze or whatever. Solving the problems and meeting the deadlines of the season are no longer daunting tasks when they are sprinkled with signs of love from our spouses.

Tradition tells of stealing kisses under the mistletoe. Imagine mistletoe in every doorway of the house. Just think of all the possible kisses. What better expression of love can there be? What better fun? This is truly a joyous season. Remember we are celebrating "that God so loved the world ..." and share His love warmly.

Enjoy the Festivities Together!



<http://www.lme-dfw.org/>
Next Weekends: Tentatively Spring & early Summer
Herb & Betty Doller - 972-780-0920
HerbDoller@sbcglobal.net

Lutheran Marriage Encounter in DFW

A Note from the Lingo's

We are very grateful for everyone here at New Life In Christ who has been praying for Joe during his extensive surgery and struggle with restored health. A great big thank you for your ongoing support and generous love.

Velma & Joe Lingo

NLIC Staff, Council, and Committees

Pastor	Bill Metting	bmetting@sbcglobal.net	972-298-2364
Secretary Editor	Jonathan Metting Betty Doller	nlic_secretary@sbcglobal.net nlic_editor@sbcglobal.net	

Council Executive committee

Position	name	email	home	work
President	Jerry Kersten	Parma1229@earthlink.net	972-780-5978	
Vice President	Phil Ward	wpwebw@sbcglobal.net	972-298-0831	
Secretary	Laura Blackburn	nlurph@swbell.net	682-518-5196	
Treasurer	Jim Blackburn	duncanvillesooner@sbcglobal.net	972-283-1722	

Church Council

Person	email	home	work
Chris Bartlett	chrisab1981@aol.com	972-298-0831	
Azella Dykman	adykman@comcast.net	972-296-7035	214-253-2818
Valerie Kelley	richila@swbell.net	972-780-9098	
Greg Lain	glain972@sbcglobal.net	972-230-3824	817-467-9977
Ralph Roberts	n/a	972-298-2449	

Council Liaisons:

Committee	Council Liaison
Education / Youth	Chris Bartlett
Evangelism	Ralph Roberts
Parish Life	Jerry Kersten
Property	Greg Lain
Service	Azella Dykman
Stewardship / Finance	Jim Blackburn
Worship / Music	Valerie Kelley
Natural Church Development	Phil Ward

NLIC Shepherds

Carol Dietz	972-283-1835
Pat Johnston	214-946-6707
Jerry and Parma Kersten	972-780-5978
Sue Polinski	972-617-6194
Jim and Lucile Robbins	972-217-1657
Sandy Roiger	972-223-4086
Bill and Judy Strickland	972-296-5353
Tom and Marion Teske	972-937-7547
Carrots Wroten	972-296-9380

NLIC Committees

Education and Youth	Chair	Sandi Scott (972-723-1817) & Cindy Carey (972-723-1817); Liaison: Chris Bartlett
	Members	Cindy Carey, Jackie Askelson, Judy Rosebrock, Melissa Justice, Michelle Dietz, Jennifer Hill, Ruby Wade and the NLIC youth
Evangelism	Chair	Liaison: Ralph Roberts
	Members	Jerry Kersten, Judy Strickland, Jack Bartlett, Betty Doller, Herb Doller, Phil Ward, Michael Aars
Parish Life	Chair	Pat Gallatin-Rhody (972-296-2442); Liaison: Jerry Kersten
	Members	Pam Beran, Patrice Pruitt, Jackie Askelson, Leah Hedgepeth, Sue Polinski, Ruby Wade, Arthurine Wade
Property	Chair	Bill Strickland (972-296-5353); Liaison: Greg Lain
	Members	Jim Gallatin, John and Pat Johnston, Jack Ruebman, Dennis Roiger, Elwood Tweet
Service	Chair	Pat Johnston (214-946-6707) & Linda Metting (972-298-2364) Liaison: Azella Dykman
	Members	Jean Lehre, Sandy Roiger, Carrots Wroten
Stewardship & Finance	Chair	Jim Blackburn (972-283-1722) Liaison: Jim Blackburn
	Members	Jack Bartlett, Ralph Roberts, Christ Bartlett, Dennis Roiger, Bill Strickland
Worship & Music	Chair	Parma Kersten (972-780-5978); Liaison: Valerie Kelley
	Members	Barbara Palermo, Barbara Aars, Belen Eck, Lucile Robbins, Linda Metting, Anita Hicock
Church Health Team		Ral Aars, Jim Blackburn, Jerry Palermo, Phil Ward
		Belen Eck, Melissa Justice, Ruby Wade

New Life In Christ Lutheran Church -Office Information

Office Hours

Pastor Bill Metting
Jonathan Metting

Tuesday thru Friday, normal hours from 8:30 am until 12:00 (noon).
Hours as needed

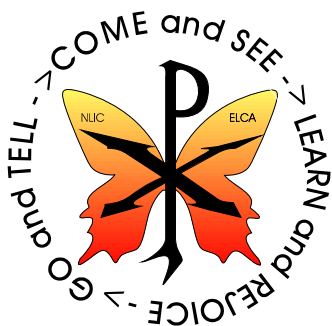
Procedures and Deadlines

- Notifications:** Jonathan will send out notifications to Worship assistants on a monthly basis and then each week on Tuesday will either mail or email the list of Worship assistants to volunteers. If changes are to be made to the schedule, please notify the office by noon on Wednesday.
- Bulletin:** Jonathan works on the bulletin on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Wednesday he finalizes the bulletin by 10:00 and runs the bulletin so that it can be folded on Friday.
Please be aware of our schedules and deadlines.
- Newsletter:** Articles are due in the church office the third Sunday of every month. Articles may be e-mailed to nlic_editor@sbcglobal.net or hard copies placed on the secretary's desk. Betty Doller our new newsletter editor will put the publication together the last week so that our volunteer staff can put the newsletter together and have it ready to be picked up that last Sunday of the month.

The Witness

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New Life in Christ Lutheran Church
311 S. Cockrell Hill Road
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December 2006

9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion